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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT

Joseph Stalin Mechanical Works in
Labedy (*producers of tanks;
manpower and ammunition
and production*)

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REFERENCES

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PLACE &
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. [redacted] report on the Joseph Stalin Mechanical Works in Labedy (Laband - W 50-20, E 18-37). The plant produced 40 T-34 tanks per month, but production of these was to be moved to Wroclaw. Early in April 1957 [redacted] a prototype of the T-54 tank on the test track; [redacted] 70 or 80 T-54 gun turrets ready-mounted and tested. The director of the plant was named Torbus; the managing director was Zabik.

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2. Two sketches show the layout of the plant.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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SECRETPOLAND

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Economic

The Josef Stalin works at LABAND near GLEIWITZ
(Zakłady Mechaniczne imienia Josefa Stalina - ZMIS)
Early 1956 to August 1957

1. Departments:

The works, which employ about 30,000 men, are situated near LABAND, ca. 6 km. NNW of GLEIWITZ on the East bank of the Adolf Hitler canal. (see sketch I).

As the sketch shows, the main factory consists of 3 departments, ZMIS 1, 2, and 3. To the East of the factory there is also a new plant in which tanks are tested.

ZMIS 1 comprises mechanical workshops and assembly shops,

ZMIS 2 comprises a steel works,

ZMIS 3 comprises a metal works.

2. Management:

The director of the whole works is Major TORBUS, and the managing director is a civilian named ZABIK.

[redacted] it was the Russians who exercised the ultimate authority in the factory and the testing plant.

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Director TORBUS is a Pole, but he has lived in Russia for a long while.

General ROKOSOWSKI frequently visited the works.

Nearly all the technical staff were the uniform of officers of the Tank Corps, whilst the administrative staff were civilians.

At the end of 1956 a number of high-ranking officers were posted to ZMIS [redacted] they belonged to a tank regiment which had just been moved from OPOLE to the GLEIWITZ area, and that as a result of a reduction of the armed forces these officers were transferred to ZMIS.

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Apart from the permanent employees there were some Russian specialists whose task it was to train the Polish technicians.

3. Production:

(a) Production was chiefly of T-34 tanks. Going by the trial runs [redacted] ca. 40 T-34s were produced each month.

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[redacted] each month 15 to 20 meters for the T-34s were sent to the factory in crates bearing Russian inscriptions, the remainder of the meters being produced in the ZMIS works. The machine guns came from RADOM and also from a firm in BRESLAU called PAFWAG. The radio equipment also came from outside.

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(b) It was planned to transfer the whole production of T-34s to BRESLAU, probably to PAFWAG, and to make T-54s at ZMIS instead. By the end of 1956 about 300 specialists had gone to BRESLAU to arrange the switch-over of production. Early in April 1957

[redacted] a prototype of a T-54 on the test track [redacted]

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[redacted] 70 or 80 T-54 gun turrets readymounted and tested.

(c) Apart from the manufacture of tanks, a certain number of excavators, tractors with caterpillar tracks, and washing machines were produced. But it was planned to discontinue this "civilian" production when the switch-over from T-34s to T-54s took place. Before the experiments with T-54s began it had been rumored in the works that a 6 ton truck was going to be produced, but these plans were abandoned.

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Production (cont.)

3. (d) The ZMIS works also manufacture a large quantity of ammunition, from small calibre for pistols to heavy artillery ammunition. 25X1
- (e) [] there was a serious lack of metals, particularly of copper alloys. A country-wide proclamation had been issued, urging that old scrap metal be collected and sent to metal works. In ZMIS 3 metal workshop there is an old English Robertson rolling mill and a new metal rolling mill. The latter was only in operation for 3 days, after which it was left unused, whilst the old one was used. [] this was due to lack of raw materials. 25X1
- (f) In the metalworks a casting of silver, ca. 1 cubic m., was made once a week. The casting was made under very strict control, to prevent theft.
- (g) The works were provided with electricity from an external high-tension network, but there was also a reserve power station in case the external supply failed. This reserve power station was frequently in use.
- (h) In July 1956 an attempt was made to sabotage the testing plant. During a drought a forest fire was started in the woods on all four sides of the site, and a large amount of fire-fighting appliances had to be used to extinguish it.

INDEX to SKETCH II.

1. Watch-towers, sited at intervals of about 100 m. around the factory.
2. LABAND station.
3. Metal rolling mill.
4. The new metal rolling mill, not in use.
5. The old Robertson rolling mill.
6. - - - - -
7. Office of the management.
8. Hall containing machines for the automatic manufacture of cartridge cases.
- and 9.
10. Metal foundry with coke-fired smelting furnaces.
11. Silver works.
12. Steel rolling mill.
13. Storehouses for the above.
14. Stores of fireproof materials for the blast furnaces.
15. Precision turning workshop.
16. Rolling mill for steel of high alloy.
17. Scrap dump.
18. Blast furnaces, 19 in all, of which 7 were electrically heated.

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19. Metallurgical laboratory.
20. Purifying plant for castings.
- 21
and 22. Scrap metal sorting yards.
23. Reserve power station.
- 24
and 25. Workshops for partial assembly.
26. Roadway 14 m. wide.
27. A civil administration building.
28. Gateway.
29. A 16 storied building housing the military administration.
30. Assembly shop.
31. Model joinery.
32. Final assembly shops.
33. Store of machine guns for T-34s.
34. Small test track, ca. 300 m. long and 200 m. wide, surfaced with concrete, and provided with obstacles, used for first trial runs.
35. Assembly shops.
36. Roadway.
37. Gateway.
38. Janitor.
39. Staff office.
40. LABAND market-place.
41. Branch railway line, from which the finished tanks are despatched. In some few cases they were sent from LABAND station.
42. Workshop No. 610 with administrative offices. Here the final adjustments were made and the tanks prepared for despatch.
- 43
and 44. Repair shop with appliances for lifting T-34s.
45. Hall No. 620, which was partly a repair workshop and partly garages for tractors used to haul tanks.
46. Store.
47. Store of spent cartridges.
48. Shooting-range, 4 to 5 km. in length.
- 49,
and 50. Underground ammunition dumps.
- 51
and 52. Surface ammunition dumps for ammunition of smaller calibre.

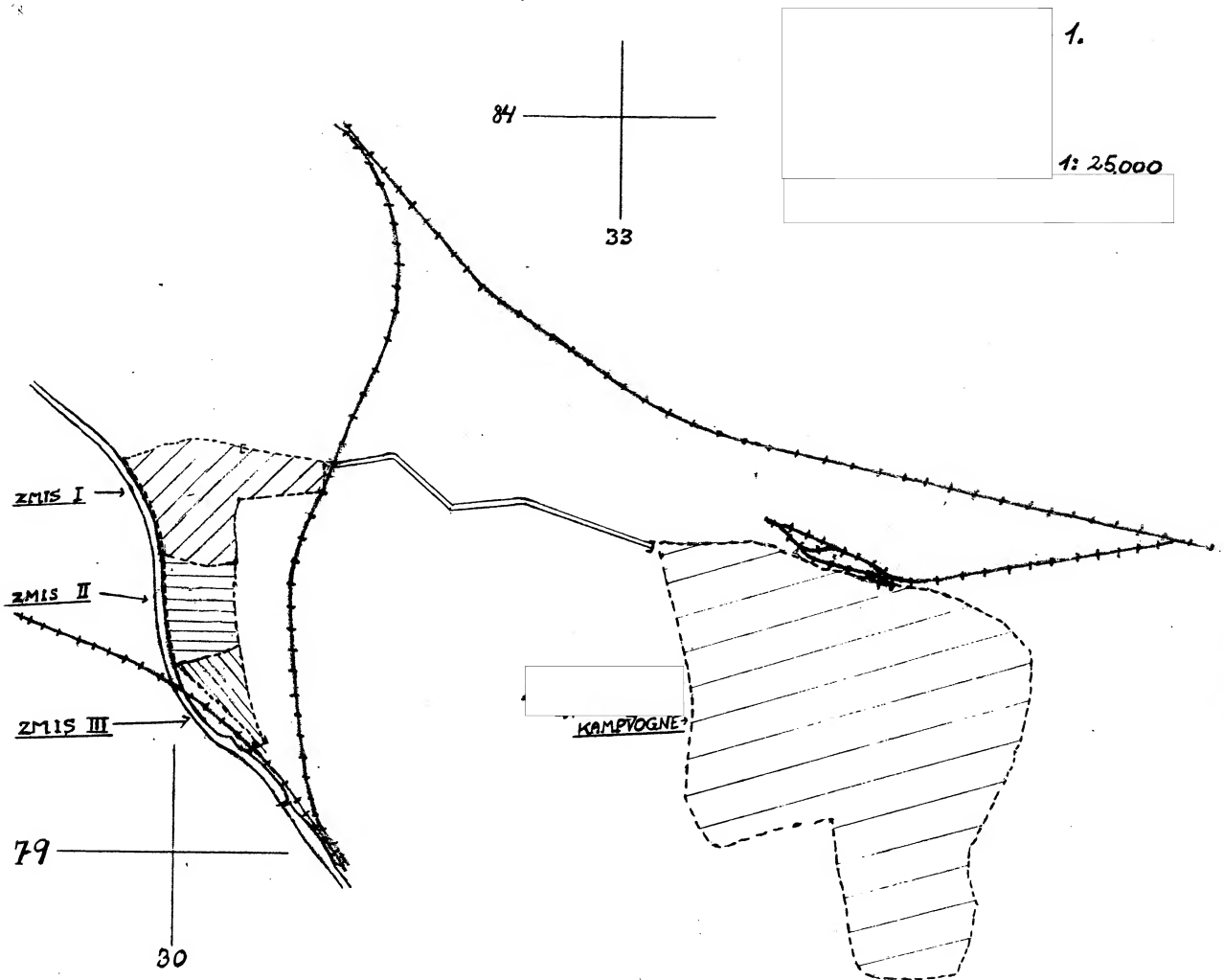
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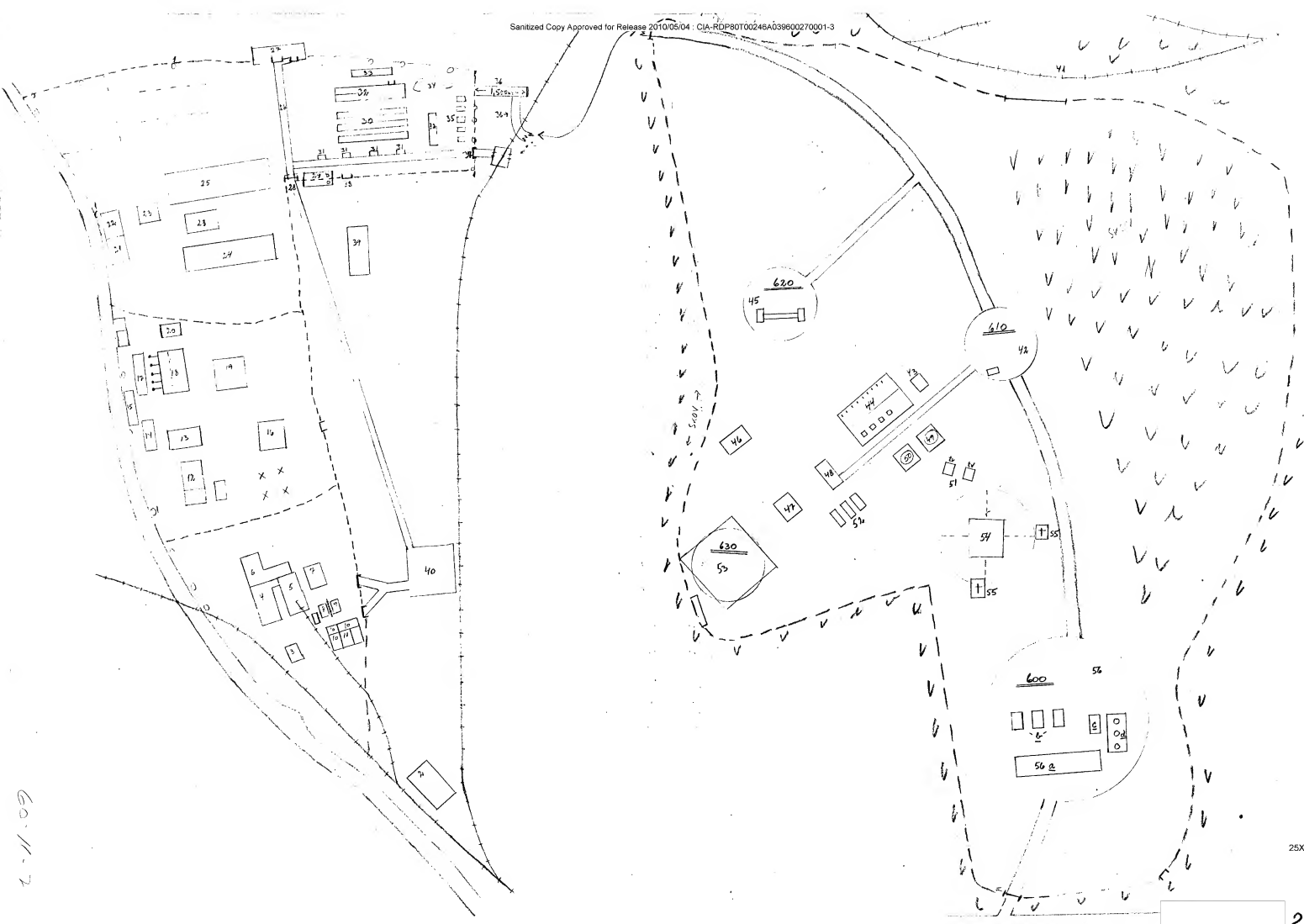
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- 53. Underground fuel store. Near here the Russians had a radio-telephone station, which they used to maintain contact with the towns in the neighbourhood.
- 54. Sunken fuel store, resting on the bottom of a lake. The lake had been pumped dry, and when the building work was completed, the lake was to be filled with water again.
- 55. Completed pumping station.
- 56. Hall No. 600. Here gun-turrets which had been damaged in tests were repaired.
- 56a. Lubricating oil stores.

The whole of the testing area was fenced in, and at night the fence was illuminated by searchlights. On completion of the testing grounds a high tension barrier was to be erected 5 m. inside the fence.





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